

S.N. 10/723,318  
Date of Office Communication: November 16, 2007

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Conf. No. 9461

REMARKS

This amendment is responsive to the Office Action mailed November 16, 2007 wherein the Examiner stated that claims 1-6, 8, 10, 11-15, 17-20 and 22 were rejected under 35 USC §103 (a) as being unpatentable over Williams (U.S. Patent 4,885,827) in view of Zhang (U.S. Patent Appl. Serial No. 2004/0090334 A1); and rejected claims 1, 7, 9, 16 and 21 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Galkin (U.S. Patent 6,850,590). In this amendment, independent claims 1, 12 and 15 were amended. No new matter has been added.

Claims 1-22 remain pending in this application. Reconsideration in light of the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

In response to the Examiner's rejection of claims 1-6, 8, 10, 11-15, 17-20 and 22 under 35 USC §103 (a) as being unpatentable over Williams in view of Zhang, the Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection based on the claims as amended. Both Williams and Zhang are directed at systems for use in automobiles and are classified respectively in classes/subclasses 340/575 and 29/91.1. Williams is directed at a system for supporting a person sitting in a seat of an automobile. The membrane/bladder support method of Williams is designed to support the weight of someone sitting on top of the membrane and, more specifically, to provide a system that enables the person sitting in the seat to adjust the "natural frequency" or spring in the seat. Zhang does not mention any membrane/bladder system, or otherwise disclose any such system or method. Zhang is directed at a system for taking video images of a person's eyes sitting in the driver's seat of an automobile to determine whether the amount of time in which a driver closes their eyes is increasing over time, to assess if the driver is becoming drowsy. Neither Williams nor Zhang are analogous art. It appears that the Examiner cites Zhang to leap frog from Williams' car seat support system to Zhang's video imaging system to the Applicant's tissue compression apparatus. However, Williams' membrane/bladder method for use in a car seat is incapable of operating as a tissue compression membrane based apparatus for medical imaging and Zhang does not disclose any element of the subject claims directed at an apparatus for compressing tissue to

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be scanned for medical imaging.

Dependent claims 2-6, 8, 10-11, 13-14, 17-20 and 22 depend, respectively, from claims 1, 12 and 15, and further recite novel elements, and are therefore patentable over the references.

In response to the Examiner's rejection of claims 1, 7, 9, 16 and 21 under 35 U.S.C. §103 (a) as being unpatentable over Galkin, the Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection based on the claims as amended. Galkin's apparatus for x-ray mammography comprises a comfort device comprising a compressible material that is adapted, when filled with air or other fluid like materials, to provide cushion to the underside of a breast when seated in Galkin's mammography cassette holder. Although Galkin discloses that the compression material may comprise a "plurality of cushions" that entraps air or "at least one inflatable chamber to contain air...", (col. 6, line65-67), these cushions do not act to apply a tensile force to a tissue compression membrane to place said membrane in a taut condition. Galkin's single inflatable chamber is, or alternative multiple cushions are, Galkin's comfort device.

Dependent claims 7, 9, 16 and 21 depend, respectively, from claims 1, 12 and 15, and further recite novel elements, and are therefore patentable over the references.

In view of the foregoing amendments and for the reasons set out above, Applicants respectfully submit that the application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of the application are respectfully requested.

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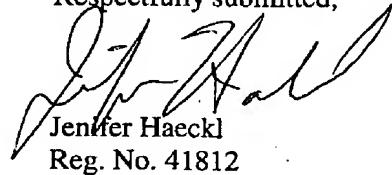
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If the Examiner believes that anything further is needed to place the application in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicants' undersigned representative at the telephone number below.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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